



## Introduction for Sisters of the Wilderness screening at SAFCEI, 19 March 2019

**By: Ronit Shapiro**

I would like to thank SAFCEI for hosting a screening of Sisters of the Wilderness. It's a great honour and it is also very meaningful because the film is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Ian Player, who was my mentor in the last four years of his lives.

I have learnt that before SAFCEI was founded, Dr. Player was consulted and he gave his full support and encouragement to set up the organisation.

Dr. Player would have celebrated his 92th birthday, few days ago, on 15 March. This is also symbolic that the screening here is taking place in close proximity to Dr. Player's birthday.

For me, today's screening is a celebration of Ian's legacy.

I would like to quote from the words that your Patron, Bishop Geoff Davies, said at Dr Player's memorial service in 2015.

He said about Dr. Player *'...a person of immense stature who, through his life, showed courage, vision and passion in his quest to care for God's creation...'*

*"...for God and Ian's sake – and ours – we must protect Wilderness areas. They are sacred. They are places where we can reconnect with nature and restore our souls."*

I fully relate to these words. My vision and motivation for creating the Sisters of the Wilderness film and social impact is to do just that, to re-connect audiences with nature and raise awareness to the value of nature to our wellbeing.

I would also like to pay tribute to Ann Player, Ian's wife, who passed away earlier this month. Ann supported the Sisters of the Wilderness project wholeheartedly. She always gave me great encouragement and inspiration in her calm and wise manners. She will be deeply missed. Let us take few moments to remember Ann.